

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2013 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 11  
Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

**District 4, Quinhagak**

**District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2013 and for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2013**

Preliminary harvest from the July 24 opening, indicate a harvest of 28 king; 589 sockeye; 1,106 chum; and 147 coho salmon. Harvests and catch rates for all of the species were below average for this date.

As of July 24, total passage through the Kanektok River Weir is 2,581 king; 118,560 sockeye; and 34,446 chum salmon. King salmon passage is well below average for this time, with sockeye passage being slightly above average. Chum salmon passage is about average for this time of the year.

In District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

### **District 5, Goodnews Bay**

**District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2013 and for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2013.**

Preliminary harvest during the July 24 commercial period was 18 king; 739 sockeye; 314 chum; and 23 coho salmon. The harvest of king salmon was low for this date and it appears the reduced area was effective for king salmon conservation. The harvest of sockeye, chum, and coho salmon were below average for this date.

As of July 24, total passage through the Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir is 891 king; 22,056 sockeye; 21,695 chum; and 7 coho salmon. The king salmon passage is higher than last year, but is still well below average. Sockeye and chum escapements are below average as well. The lower end of the sockeye escapement goal has been achieved.

In District 5 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for these upcoming commercial periods. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages. Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.